

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/731,820

Examiner

John Kim

Applicant(s)

GUZMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/25/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 5, 12-14, 16-20 renumbered 1-11 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James Kwak on 7/27/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

-Page 3, line 1: "fthe Inv ntion" has been changed to --of the Invention--.

-Before paragraph [0005] on page 3, the following has been inserted:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--.

-Claim 1, line 4: Between "filter" and "is", -- cartridge -- has been inserted.

-Claim 1, line 16: After "portion", the following has been added:

-- and wherein said water filter cartridge is adapted with at least one opening for accepting water into said water filter cartridge, said pivotal element is comprised of at least one opening for allowing water to exit into said at least one opening in said water filter cartridge, said water filter cartridge is further comprised of an exit end having at least one opening for allowing water to exit said water filter cartridge, said face portion is comprised of a plurality of exit openings, said exit end of said water filter cartridge is releasably connected to said face portion and wherein said water exiting said exit end of said water filter cartridge flows out of said plurality of exit openings in said face portion--.

-Claims 2, 4 and 8-10 have been canceled.

-Claim 5, line 1: "4" has been changed to --1--.

-Claim 14, line 14: After "inlet", the following has been added:

-- and wherein said water filter cartridge is adapted with at least one opening for accepting water into said water filter cartridge, said pivotal element is comprised of at least one opening for allowing water to exit into said at least one opening in said water filter cartridge, said water filter cartridge is further comprised of an exit end having at least one opening for allowing water to exit said water filter cartridge, said exit end of said water filter cartridge is releasably connected to said face portion and wherein said water exiting said exit end of said water filter cartridge flows out of said plurality of exit openings in said face portion--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the water filter of claim 1 comprising a pivotable element operatively connected to a threaded inlet, a water filter cartridge comprising an opening formed in part by a plurality of flexible side portions wherein the flexible side portions releasably retain the pivotable element to the water filter cartridge and the showerhead water filter comprising a water filter cartridge attached to a pivotable element operatively connected to a threaded inlet wherein the water filter cartridge is comprised of a recess formed from a plurality of flexible flanges arranged in an annular formation wherein the flanges releasably retain the pivotable element to the water filter cartridge. Farley (US Pat. No. 6,325,930), Mueller et al (US Pat. No. 6,952,286) and Douglas et al (US Pat. No. 6,796,518) and Hsieh (US 2003/0034405) teach showerhead filters that are close to the claimed invention. Each of above prior arts teaches a holder for a pivotal element that are separate from water filter cartridge and none of the above prior arts teaches nor suggests a water filter cartridge having an opening formed in part by a plurality of flexible side portions or a recess formed from a plurality of

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flexible flanges arranged in an annular formation wherein the flexible side portions or the flexible flanges releasably retain the pivotable element to the water filter cartridge.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-1142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Kim can be reached on 571-272-1142. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JK
July 27, 2006


John Kim
Primary Examiner
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